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# CITY News

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Vol. 18, No. 51

## Corzine explains intentions

**Spending** — Corzine has come under criticism from his critics who believe he has an unfair advantage in the race because of his personal finances — which he has used to fund his campaign. He said he recently came under attack because of his contribution to St. Matthew's A.M.E. church run by the Rev. Reginald Jackson, and is accused of trying to buy the black ministry.

Corzine said he believes there are double standards when it comes to contributing to black organizations and that he doubts he would have been criticized for contributing to a Catholic church. "I believe in inclusion," he said.

He believes the country needs a comprehensive solution to the spending problem and the use of "soft money." According to a web site about soft money, "since 1997, it has been illegal for a corporation to spend money on political campaigns. And since 1974, it has been illegal for a single person to contribute more than \$1,000 to a federal candidate, or more than \$20,000 per year to a political party." However, loopholes by the Federal Election Commission in 1978, allows large contributions for "party building" purposes, which is not supposed to be used for every thing but a candidate's campaign.

**Spending in the Urban districts** — Corzine believes government sponsorship or ownership is needed in expending economic development in urban centers, and there has to be a more focused effort on privatizes and government agencies working together.

"I want to set up a national network of urban investment banks. I call them 'Renaissance Banks.' I believe they will lead to a rebirth of our older cities and towns in New Jersey and across the nation. These institutions would provide seed capital, working capital and consulting services — the tools of aggressive economic leadership in the renaissance of urban cities and towns," he said.

He believes affirmative action, if implemented correctly, giving people and companies of merit a chance, can equalize an unequal playing field. "We don't live in a color-blind society. And I don't accept that 30 years of civil rights practice and legal initiatives have washed away more than 300 years of prejudice."

**Schools** — "I think we need to push to expand spending, to have an expansion of preschools and fully fund Head Start," Corzine said.

"Urban schools are not performing as well as anyone would like to see them. I admire NJ's Abbott districts and the ruling by the Supreme Court, but I think the federal government needs to be a part of the process," he said.

He said the government needs to pay attention to implementing smaller class sizes, and the lack of individual attention can handicap kids in the educational process.

He said the best way to accomplish better education in New Jersey is for congress to

## Honoring a hero

### Christmas honored for courage in Seton Hall blaze



Right to left: Dana Christmas thanks Metropolitan Baptist church for recognizing her during Dr. Reverend David Jefferson, Sr.'s Sunday service. See CHRISTMAS on page A-8.

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## University inserts black student among whites in photo

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Hoping to illustrate its diverse enrollment, the University of Wisconsin at Madison says it doctored a photo on a brochure cover by inserting a black student in a crowd of white football fans.

"We did it in this one instance, and it really was an error in judgment," University publications director Al Friedman said.

The university's undergraduate admissions director, Rob Seltzer, said his office spent the summer looking for pictures that would show the school's diversity — but had no luck.

The staff finally settled on a 1993 photo of white Badger fans at a football game. Friedman said his office then altered the photo to add an image of senior Dillio Shabazz taken in 1994.

The university won't discipline those involved because they admitted their mistake and apologized to Shabazz, said Patrick Stricker, a university spokesman.

Shabazz said he thinks the incident will encourage the university to work with minority students to improve the campus' climate and recruitment process.

"It's a symptom of a much larger problem," he said. "Diversity on this campus is really not being dealt with. People really don't care about the photo itself. People care about having more students of color on campus."

## Farrakhan, black activists attend Mathaba meeting in Libya

SIRTE, LIBYA — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and a delegation of black activists from the United States, including Native Americans, were among several hundred activists and 11 heads of state participating in the 3rd Congress of the World Mathaba Aug. 30-31.

The World Mathaba is a Libyan-based organization that dedicated itself in the 1980s to supporting liberation movements in Africa and throughout the world who were attempting to overthrow oppressive regimes. Often times, these revolutionaries were engaged in armed struggle, causing the West to classify many of them as "terrorists."

Efforts of the organization were hampered during the last decade when U.N. sanctions were leveled against the Muslim country.

But today, as noted by host head of state Col. Muammar Gadhafi, many of the activists "receive red-carpet treatment" from world leaders because the activists actually are in ruling parties in their countries — proving the legitimacy of their movements.

The discussion during the conference focused on how world Mathaba (meaning "center") change in light of a new world reality where the armed struggle had been won by many of the revolutionary groups, and globalism has now become the dominant challenge.

"On this historical day and meeting, we should reaffirm our existence, we should extend a hand to all movements," Col. Gadhafi told delegates and heads of state gathered at the opening plenary of the conference. "Mathaba should impose itself on the world arena," and in doing so, Mathaba will be a balance of power to offset the neo-colonialist efforts of western powers. "We are not terrorists, we are freedom fighters," he said.

In his message, Col. Gadhafi called for the formation of an international bank controlled by Mathaba in order to offset control of nations by oppressive financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said that Mathaba members should form regional trade blocks as a hedge against "imperialist-controlled" globalization and engage in conflict resolution, particularly on the African continent.

## News Analysis

By Carol Prejean Zippert  
Co-Publisher of The Greene County Democrat for NINPA

SELMA, Ala. (NNPA) — Shortly after the polls closed at 6 p.m. on Sept. 12, Rose Sanders heard the early reports that James Perkins Jr. had won the mayor's race in Selma, becoming the city's first Black mayor by defeating long-term mayor Joe Smitherman.

She cautioned the already jubilant supporters that it was too early to celebrate, that the absentee ballots had not been counted. It had been reported that 1,500 absentee ballots had been cast and it was expected that most of these would be for the white nine-term mayor.

Even so, more than 1,000 of Perkins' supporters arrived at The Grotto Place, Sanders' residence from various polling places, yelling "We got it! We made it! Perkins won! Joe is gone!" Sanders was still cautious.

Then in walked State Sen. Hank Sanders, whose district includes the city.

"Perkins is in," her husband said. "He is almost 2,000 votes ahead of Smitherman. The absentee votes have not been counted, but there is no way that Smitherman can make this up."

At that moment Sanders succumbed to uncontrollable tears of joy and relief.

Joy that Selma the site of 1965's "Bloody

Sunday" Civil Rights Movement protest for the right to vote, blood spilled under Smitherman's watch and with his help would finally have new political leadership in Selma.

Joy that an era of dominance that held all Selma in bondage had ended.

And relief that the Smitherman campaign against Rose Sanders would now end. Relief that a significant battle was won.

It was obvious in the mayoral race that incumbent mayor's campaign was actually against Sanders. During the race, Smitherman hardly mentioned Perkins, except to say that if the three-time candidate became mayor, she, not his rival, would run Selma.

Sanders, a longtime city activist lawyer and a national leader in the fight against the unfair "ability tracking" of Black students at public schools, has been at odds with Smitherman for several years. The major flashpoint was in the late 1980s, when Sanders led a Black student boycott of Selma High School, charging the school unfairly "tracked" Black students, limiting their opportunities. Her violent arrest by Smitherman's police left her with an injured back and a stronger resolve.

Smitherman's campaign attempted to smear Sanders to make her the villain for talking to the streets and neighborhoods to organize the electorate for Perkins.

At the end of the campaign, Sanders

time was indeed the charm.

"It was the tremendous passion of the campaign," he said. "Actually, there were two complementary campaigns going. The Perkins campaign, whose motto was 'Moving Forward United,' and the Sanders' 'Joe Gotta Go' movement."

Some people responded to the first, while others responded to the second, said the new mayor-elect. The two campaigns, in Perkins' view, worked "separately but in concert."

Said Hank: "If the mayoral race had been lost, Rose would have been blamed. That's a lot of weight to carry when someone else is running."

So when Sanders cried for joy and relief, her tears were well deserved. At that moment, the supporters who had gathered were silent, in both deference and understanding.

The jubilation that burst forth in the streets turned those tears to smiles and laughter. The celebration on Broad Street quickly became infectious. One could not approach it without being drawn in and ignited.

Selma won one battle for justice-Joe is gone—but the struggle goes on to secure relevant education, economic and political empowerment, access to good health care, an end to violence and cultural appreciation among all people.

Carol Prejean Zippert is co-publisher of The Greene County Democrat.

## Winning a victory for Selma—and a strong black woman

SUNDAY" Civil Rights Movement protest for the right to vote, blood spilled under Smitherman's watch and with his help would finally have new political leadership in Selma.

During the campaign, leaflets were distributed throughout the community with slogans that dispensed and threatened Sanders.

Allegedly, these were produced and distributed throughout the Smitherman campaign. A car with Perkins' campaign signs parked in front of Rose and Hank Sanders' law office was set afire.

Hank said his wife was a leader in convincing and implementing the "Joe Gotta Go" campaign. She named it and led in its difficult door-to-door, neighborhood-to-neighborhood grant work.

"The street work is where people risk their lives to become human billboards to raise consciousness and to promote the 'Perkins For Mayor' campaign," he said.

The state official added his wife was "instrumental in helping to get folks to come from around the country to join the efforts to remove a longstanding block to freedom."

Hank also gave vital assistance to the campaign by raising funds, promoting voter registration, soliciting volunteers from within and throughout the state, and helping to design the media campaign.

Perkins was asked why he felt the third

## Black law school dean resigns over university's hiring practices

GAINEVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The highest-ranking black administrator at the University of Florida law school resigned a week after a dormitory meeting over the school's difficulty in attracting and retaining black professors.

Kenneth Nunn, associate dean for law center affairs, and others said that increasing diversity should be the school's primary concern. Others said race was being emphasized to the detriment of teaching the school's core courses.

Nunn, who has been at UF since 1990, will remain on the faculty. He was not accepting calls from reporters seeking comment on his actions, his office said.

In an e-mail to the faculty last Tuesday, interim interim Jon Mills said Nunn's decision to step down was based in part on "his concern with the law school's inability to retain African-American faculty members," Mills said he shares Nunn's concerns. "I have faith that this faculty can work toward a national and fair solution," Mills said.

The school has employed just seven black professors since 1988 and currently lists only two African-Americans among its 54 tenure or tenure-track faculty.

Stan Huguenin, a spokesman for the law school, said UF works hard to recruit black faculty members, but so does almost every law school in the United States. "There just aren't that many black law professors available," he said.

The situation is much the same at the Florida State University College of Law, where only two of the 33 tenure or tenure-track professors are African-American.

## FBI investigated Chamberlain and other basketball players in 1960s

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The FBI investigated Wilt Chamberlain in the late 1960s because of rumors that the basketball great was fixing games, the Philadelphia Daily News reported.

Investigators never found any evidence that the late Hall of Fame center threw a game, and family members say he didn't.

"He was just too honest to do that," Chamberlain's younger sister, Barbara Lewis, said.

The FBI also looked into claims from informants who said the 13-time NBA All-Star bet on basketball — always on his own team to win — according to Chamberlain's FBI file.

Chamberlain loved to gamble, but Wilt "never bet on basketball to my knowledge," said Vince Miller, 62, who knew Chamberlain since the third grade and shared an apart-

ment with him in the late 1960s.

The FBI file was obtained by the Daily News through a Freedom of Information Act request. APBnews.com also got a copy of the file earlier this year and reported about it on the Web site. The file contains about two dozen documents covering the years from 1966-69 containing mostly rumor, innuendo and second-hand allegations.

Heavily edited sections of the file indicate that other basketball players were suspected of the same.

The FBI investigation "certifies" Chamberlain was "Mister Clean," said Seymour Goldberg, 69, Chamberlain's longtime attorney and the executor of his estate.

"This is magnificent," Goldberg said. "Who else can you describe in the NBA who's been 'investigated' by the FBI — especially at a time, he said, when blacks were special tar-

gets. I Edgar Hoover, FBI director at the time, has long been accused of trying to quell black activism during the civil rights era."

It was not clear if the FBI ever shared its findings with the NBA. A player betting on basketball would face suspension or expulsion under rules in place since "at least the early '50s," said NBA senior vice president Brian McIntyre.

The NBA was unaware of the FBI investigation or of any alleged wrongdoing on Chamberlain's part, McIntyre said.

Chamberlain died in October 1999, at age 63. He starred in the NBA from 1959-73 for the Philadelphia (later San Francisco) Warriors, 1974-76 for the Los Angeles Lakers. He scored 31,419 points during his career and a league record until Kareem Abdul-Jabbar broke it in 1984.

## Ad promoting GOP takes shot at 'diversity'

By Laura Meckler  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A conservative group is airing TV ads that urge voters to support Republicans, featuring a woman who says she pulled her son out of public school because there were too many drugs, violence and "a bit more diversity than he could handle."

The ad is running in Kansas City, Mo., where a bitter battle over school desegregation is being fought. The Republican Ideas Political Committee plans to show it and other ads in additional markets this fall, founder and conservative commentator Richard Nader said.

Missouri Republicans are wary of the unsolicited help.

"We don't have anything to do with that group and certainly wouldn't have anything to do with any ad campaign they're running," said Daryl Duwe, a spokesman for the Missouri Republican Party.

It's one of a series of spots the group is running.

A radio ad, called "A Black Republican," features a black man talking about how he is now a Republican. "Democrats taught me to hate wealth. The Republicans helped me to get some," he says. Other ads deal with privatization of Social Security; one criticizing Democrat Al Gore and the other supporting George W. Bush.

"The goal is to elect Republicans," said Nader.

Nader said he's raised \$83,000 so far and hopes to collect more than \$100,000 by November. He would not name the other cities where he plans to advertise but said he hopes to help "Republicons up and down the line."

In the Kansas City ad, the narrator tells the story of her fictional family: a daughter who did well in public school and a son who wanted to attend a private school.

"When Jason started hanging with the wrong crowd, we had to act fast," the woman says. "We didn't want him where drugs and violence were fashionable. It was a bit more diversity than he could handle."

The woman emphasizes the word "diversity," and as she says it, a multiracial group of children are seen hanging out near a stairway.

The 60-second ad goes on to promote educational savings accounts, which give parents tax breaks to save for tuition. The ad ends with the words "Vote Republican" across the screen.

Democrats argued that the ad had "racist" overtones, saying "diversity" was a code word for racial minorities.

Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Jenny Backus said the ad had "Willie Horton-esque echoes in it," a reference to a 1983 ad by an independent group about a Massachusetts prison furlough program that was widely viewed as a racist swipe at Democrat Michael Dukakis.

"It's important to stand up and say there's no room for tactics like this," she said. "Instead of being deported, diversity should be celebrated."

DNC Chairman Joe Andrew called on his Republican counterpart, Jim Nicholson, to repudiate the ad. "This race-baiting ad feeds people's worst fears about the real challenges facing schools today," Andrew wrote him last Tuesday. "I hope you'll agree that the ad is repugnant to all Americans."

Ad expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson agreed that the ad had a racial flavor.



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## EDITORIAL

## Money is not the root of all evil

Now that Jon Corzine, candidate for US Senate has divulgued his charitable contributions, the rhetoric has once again turned to his advantage to spend his own money to win this race. In New York, the clamor is how beholden do candidates have to be to the big interests that are funding the senate race there. For all the candidates, it seems you're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Corzine's ability to fund his campaign bodes well with some people who feel that he won't be in anyone's pocket should he win the seat. That could mean that he will vote his conscience without regard to whose toes may be stepped on. In addition, let's get real, money or the lack thereof, is only one factor in the decision of who runs for office as witnessed by Forbes' bid for president.

Ultimately, independence is what we should want our candidates to have in order to make the best decisions in our interests without ulterior or motives playing in the background of policy decisions. Corzine has used his own money to make contributions to many worthwhile organizations, and there's nothing wrong with that, despite the outcry from the naysayers.

However, the issue of campaign financing will not disappear, because one candidate has broken free. Until a massive reform is made, we will still have candidates who are chained to big business and money interests and not to the people they serve.

## Letter to the Editor

## Presidential race for dollars, but where's the democracy?

By Mark C. Smith

It seems there are some fundamental things we miss out on as Americans.

Most of all, the truth.

For example, so far in the Year 2000 Presidential campaign, candidates have been given over \$100 million dollars by private interests. Add to this the \$100's of millions that go to congressional, state, and local campaigns, all to guarantee that there will be business friendly politicians in office.

If last presidential election was any sign, a majority of us are so turned off by our own political system, we won't even show up at the polls to have our little say.

Like trained parrots, many of us echo the slogan that the United States is a democracy, rule of the majority. Some even call this the best democracy in the world.

And we look 90 miles south of Florida with contempt, calling Cuba a totalitarian dictatorship where no one has any rights.

We know nothing of Cuba's nationwide elections held in 1997-1998 when the entire population elected their leaders.

We know nothing of their elec-

Another View

## Candidates not quite acquainted with the black community

By Emory Curtis

I don't get it. Why were national Black political leaders like U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Jesse Jackson, Sen. and U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) so riled up about Senator Joseph Lieberman's previous stance against affirmative action?

So what if he is not in favor of affirmative action? If Gore, Clinton, Lieberman will be the vice-president and a vice-president's job is to follow policy directions from the president, not give directions.

At the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, the Black Caucus got Lieberman to kowtow to the Clinton-Gore line on affirmative action: "Mend it, don't end it." That line sounds good, but means nothing. Neither Clinton, Gore nor Lieberman have come out with what needs mend and how it should be mended.

However, by getting Lieberman to buy into the already blessed Clinton-Gore line, the black political leaders at the convention got some cover to sit out and sell Gore-Lieberman to the rest of us. They need that cover and more to get

into the campaign that involve not millions of dollars, but a posted one page biography of candidates that details their experience.

We know nothing of how Cuba's electoral process doesn't allow for party machines to make nominations, because every local leader must be nominated by a person from their local community, up to and including Fidel Castro himself.

We call an election a landslide in the United States when less than half the voters even show up. But in Cuba, where 50 percent is required, over 95 percent of the population participates.

On July 25, a delegation of Cuban labor leaders began a 15-city tour of the United States to educate us about their unique form of popular democracy.

They addressed the points mentioned above and placed a particular emphasis on the pain that is caused by the United States' economic blockade and the blockade of the small island nation.

The American people must be made aware that alternative forms of running our lives exist. We must study them and use what we can for ourselves.

black voters to enthusiastically back this ticket with a healthy turnout.

Selling Clinton-Gore's program as a continuation of the Clinton legacy without Clinton is going to be difficult. For one Clinton's success has been his ability to take Republican ideas, stamp his name on it, and then sell it to Democrats and Republicans as his innovation.

That's what he did with welfare reform, NAFTA and crime. On each of those issues, Democrats used to be vulnerable to Republican attacks on them for wasting money on welfare, being against free trade, and soft on crime.

As result of Clinton's leadership, the Republicans haven't been able to mount attacks on the Democratic Party. And for good reason: the Democrats have taken the Republican's old positions.

Clinton was able to do that and keep in line his core supporters — black Democrats. And when needed, he had those leadership skills that could rouse his supporters.

No matter what you think of president Clinton, his talents fit today's leadership environment like

a glove. He is likeable, has a way with words (in the vernacular a slick Tongue) and a quick mind.

That's the kind of person that would be interesting to visit with, meet at a small party or look at on TV in the living room with friends or in the bedroom before you doze off to sleep.

Furthermore, obviously he likes people and likes being around people, even us. He takes to blacks like a rabbit in a briar patch.

Neither Al Gore nor Lieberman is at home among us, so far. To get the kind of support in the black community that Clinton gets, they are going to have to show support for some action on issues of concern. Just a tongue and a mind won't do.

That's going to be hard for them to do. After all, the central focus of

the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns are those middle class voters who switch their votes between the major parties.

Their political party platform of both parties especially ignore issues of direct concern to us as minority and to the low-income voters.

The Gore team can use another approach. Spend a small percent of their multi-mega-dollar advertising budget on black media, especially the weeklies that service our community across all over the country.

To be effective that kind of program ought to start around Labor Day and continue on through the election. Its focus ought to be on the issues of concern to readers of those publications, not just a "vote for me" type of campaign.

If the Gore team did that, it would be a first. Too often, even Black candidates fail to advertise in the little weeklies that service their area. And then, at the last, many of them have the nerve to expect a endorsement and free space.

As you sort through the confusing data on candidates and issues make a note of the candidates and issues that are not mentioned in the TV ads. And then check your weekly to see if those same candidates and issues respect you and your community enough to place ads in the weeklies to reach you.

## Will the real Dick Cheney please stand up?

By Lloyd Williams

As the browning of America unfolds, with minorities an emerging majority, the prospect of unparalleled political ineptitude looms. Despite the Republican scramble to represent all as an omnibus umbrella Party, the fact remains that George W. Bush's first step toward that kinder, gentler conservatism was to pick Dick Cheney as a running mate.

Out on the electronic campaign trail, the Bush-Cheney team talk only in non-committal aphorisms, that predestined pabulum prepared by pollsters. In the Information Age, strategists are well aware that safe, saccharine soundbites will serve their candidates better than substance. Ironically, the truth has become of less and less importance due to the human reliance on television as a source for knowledge.

In the jet age, it might appear

that the wheel is obsolete? After all, the jet only uses the wheel to slow down. But the wheel remains critical, even if taken for granted. Similarly, it might also appear nowadays that the truth is obsolete because television has subverted the notion of realism. But it would be a mistake to assume a cultural contamination to superficiality.

No matter how pervasive electronic media, its artificiality will never subsume the citadel of individual consciousness. The human soul is not for sale, hence not accessible to TV, thank God. Thus, deep-down, the electorate must be truly interested in knowing who the real Dick Cheney is. Scratch the surface and you find a monster who looks a lot more like Lou Chaney than the image-makers' grandfatherly baby-kisser.

Examine the man's voting record in Congress and you realize that he's arbitrarily distancing himself, temporarily, from an over-privileged past which runs

counter to any notions of inclusion.

As for Civil Rights, Cheney opposed federal protection for women, infants and children. He also voted against the Hunger Relief Act, a self-explanatory expansion of the food stamp program. He has come out against extending aid to refugees and he proposed new restrictions on public assistance.

In 1988, Cheney tried to block the passage of a Federal Death Crimes Bill.

If you're looking for Family Values, this callous Fortune 500 CEO opposed federal aid to low-income homebuyers, opposed allowing Federal workers emergency leave to care for their sick family members and even opposed benefits for widows of cops and firemen.

When it comes to Education, Cheney voted against the College Aid Program, and against the Head Start Program. In

Healthcare, he worked to halt the Federal Management Program. As for Senior Citizens, he has repeatedly opposed the Older Americans Act and Social Security cost of living adjustments.

With a "Leave the Earth" approach, this anti-environmentalist tried to block the Federal Water Pollution Act, the Superfund, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Concretely rather than semantically considered, the real Dick Cheney's past evidences a frightening mosaic of oppression and intolerance. In this age of instant make-overs, Cheney's only hope lies in Madison Avenue's First Commandment: Love thy label as thyself.

New Thinker Lloyd Williams is a human rights attorney and member of the bar of NY, NJ, PA, CT & MA.

## Bush and Cheney's downward spiral continues

By Rev. Frank Garrett, Jr.

Blank. Like a ball of yarn in the clutches of a kitten on LSD, the Bush/Cheney team is unraveling a yard at a time. As his smirky style now evolves into a deer in the headlights look once cocky contender has to humble himself.

He told reporters in Detroit yesterday he is restyling his campaign to include more intimate gatherings with voters. How special! To suddenly start including those who want to vote him into office is a sure sign of his Ivory Tower style of campaigning has no juice. It will be interesting to see if George W. Bush's hobnobbing in coffee shops and Turkish baths will try and regain some favor with the people we.

This brings us to the point as Republicans are beginning to express concern both publicly and privately over the race. Bob Novak, the CNN's Crossfire program, who has his latest op-ed piece, "George W. Bush needs to change the atmosphere to keep pucky backers from heading for the high grass." He went on to write, "Where are all the governors?

It is perhaps the ultimate case on record of racial profiling. On March 16, in New York City when Detective Anthony Vasquez shot Patrick Dorismond in the chest after refusing drugs, we were stunned. We kept asking, "why?" Why did a buy-and-bust operation lead to death when Dorismond just said no to crack? Mayor Giuliani asked him the same questions, stunned more than likely in his own private moments. He is going to go back over ten years to unseal Dorismond's sealed file and proceed to come up with well, let's call it an answer. Making the press big grand jury of choice, the Mayor presented his case through the media, only later acknowledging his mistakes.

Relatives of Patrick Dorismond, some would say finally, filed a \$300 million suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, it alleges that the city Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, former police Commissioner Howard Safir and the officers involved in the March 15th violent incident Dorismond's civil rights. This case will be closely watched by all, especially in light of the puzzling fact that Vasquez was cleared by a grand jury in July of any wrongdoing.

This begs the question what are our civil rights? Without question, we can all say we believe our civil rights have been violated. The notion of a violation of our civil rights comes right at that moment after someone treats you a certain way, or you treat something or hear something that makes you pause. It stirs you up on the inside and keeps you awake at night.

On paper, people have a right to privacy, have an abortion, or participate in what they believe in. The protection of the Bill of Rights. The Civil War then extended those rights further with the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. But it wasn't until the 60's that America grinded the Civil Rights Movement into a reality that we can call the Civil Rights Movement out to remind people of the rights that we already had.

It may seem redundant but the same principle moves on. We must constantly remind people of the rights for which we have fought. On a day-to-day basis, we each remind people in our own little and sometimes big way about the rights we already have. The Patrick Dorismond case along with other cases lets us know how comfortable people have become. It seems like people actually forget about the rights we have secured.

If you haven't noticed, we have long been in another into another phase of reminding people of the rights that we already have. One surprisingly important one being the right to say no to drugs.



## Just 'Saying No to Drugs': The Right of Patrick Dorismond

vides that a government cannot "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of the law, nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." The 13th Amendment outlawed slavery; the 14th Amendment provides equal protection of the laws. The 15th Amendment afforded African-American men the right to vote. Years of cases have also defined these civil rights to include the right to, to participate, have an abortion, and participate in what they believe in.

Fast forward to the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's, which resulted in the passage of more recent civil rights legislation.

The most important, some would say, was the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. Civil Rights Law VII prohibits discrimination of any type in the above listed Civil Rights.

The protection extends to age discrimination, education, and disabilities. The Dorismond family are suing because they feel Patrick Dorismond's federal civil rights

were violated based upon the fact that he was shot because he was Black. The race factor is what pushes the case right under the umbrella of protected civil rights.

If it doesn't seem clear, it's not. Think about it. Thomas Jefferson already promised equality for all in 1776, and

then there's the Bill of Rights. The Civil War then extended those rights further with the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. But it wasn't until the 60's that America grinded the Civil Rights Movement into a reality that we can call the Civil Rights Movement out to remind people of the rights that we already had.

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## CITY NEWS

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## Nine ways to improve your relationship with others

By Herbert Harris

### Make yourself likable.

Your power to be liked by others is invaluable to your success journey. To be likable, you must first like yourself. Then this positive feeling you have about yourself will be projected to others through your attitude. When people like you, they will do things to help and assist you in accomplishing your goals and realizing your vision.

"A (person) who has friends must show (themselves) friendly..." (Proverbs 18:24)

### Always remember people's names.

There is no sound more pleasant to another person than the sound of their own name. When you remember people's names, they like it. It makes them feel that you think they are special.

### Express appreciation for what other people do.

When you show appreciation for what others do, you give value to and validate their efforts.

### Be lavish in your praise.

Praise expresses your approval of what others do. It uplifts them and inspires them to do even more.

Listen intently to other people's words, comprehending, understanding, and reacting to them.

Communication has too often become the practice of two people, each waiting for the other person to finish talking, so he or she can start talking again. Very few people really listen to the other person. They are too busy thinking about what they are going to say next. How you listen is more important than what you say. Listen to the other person's whole story first.

## Television ads to air looking for priests

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh hopes to score some points with armchair quarterbacks this fall.

The diocese will air a television ad campaign during weekend football games, aimed at attracting men into the priesthood.

The ads, each 30 seconds long, are being paid for with a grant from the estate of the late Monsignor Francis J. Rooney, who died in June 1999.

"He loved the Steelers and he

loved the priesthood," said Sister Francis Rooney, Rooney's sister.

The Pittsburgh diocese has

witnessed a 25-year decline in the

number of active priests and the

number of men entering the seminary.

There is also an increasing

number of priests reaching retire-

ment age.

"To reach the target audience

of males between the ages of 18

and 45, market research indicates

the best medium is sports pro-

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tor of diocese vocations.

"We are

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## Clerk who stole Malcolm X's diary given fine, service

By Samuel Maul  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A former Manhattan court clerk was sentenced last Tuesday to 150 hours of community service and fined \$5,000 for stealing the bloody, bullet-pocked diary book that Malcolm X was carrying when he was assassinated.

Douglas Henderson, 42, was also placed on probation for five years by State Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Adas who ordered him to stay away from the Shabazz family, the last name Malcolm X adopted before he died.

Henderson, a clerk for 15 years in the Manhattan Criminal Courts Building, interrupted his trial in July and pleaded guilty to third-degree grand larceny in exchange for a deal that kept him out of jail.

Henderson, who earned \$44,000 a year, admitted that he took the 3-by-5-inch, 146-page red leather diary book from a courtroom evidence safe in 1991 and sold it six years later for \$5,000. After the diary was put up for sale by a California auction house, it was traced back to Henderson.

At one point, Henderson claimed he took the diary because he was devoted to the teachings and memory of Malcolm X and intended to keep it in a safe place until he could return it to the slain civil rights leader's family.

But Atlas said that despite the "spin" Henderson was putting on his admission of guilt, he took something that didn't belong to him. "He knew it didn't belong to him. He kept it, and that is stealing," the judge said.

The diary was pierced in Malcolm X's left breast pocket when he was shot by three gunmen as he spoke in Harlem's Audubon Ballroom on Feb. 21, 1965. It was used as evidence at their trial, and all three were convicted.

"Ten years ago I made a very terrible mistake," Henderson said as he apologized to the court and to the Shabazz family. "I never meant to hurt the memory of Malcolm X or his family."

Atlas noted that it will now be difficult — if not impossible — for Henderson, now in his last year of law school, to become an attorney because he has a felony conviction.

## One killed, two hurt in crash on Ben Franklin Bridge

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — A woman was killed and two other people were hurt last Monday in a collision on the Benjamin Franklin Bridge that forced the closure of all westbound lanes for more than an hour.

A Nissan sedan was headed east on the bridge at about 2:30 p.m. when it crossed into westbound traffic and hit a Volkswagen, a spokeswoman for the Delaware River Port Authority, which operates the bridge.

A third car, a Ford station wagon, which also was headed west, then collided with the Nissan, she said.

The women driving the Volkswagen died later due to injuries from the crash. Nguyen said. The woman's identity was not released last Monday night.

The woman driving the Nissan had to be extricated. The male driver of the Ford was the least seriously injured. Both were taken to Cooper Hospital University Medical Center. The Nissan driver was in stable condition, Nguyen said. The Ford driver was later transferred to West Jersey Hospital, Nguyen said. His condition was not available.

There were no passengers in any of the cars, she said.

All westbound lanes were closed and only one eastbound lane was in use from before 3 p.m. until after 4 p.m.

## Whitman admits 'mistakes in 1st speech to NAACP after frisk photo

By Wayne Parry  
Associated Press Writer

SOMERSET, N.J. (AP) — Admitting "I've made mistakes," Gov. Christine Whitman addressed the state NAACP convention last Saturday for the first time since the now-infamous photo of her frisking a black man during a police sweep in Camden surfaced.

The governor acknowledged lingering resentment over the photo in the black community, but said black clergy and community leaders know she has worked hard to improve things for minorities.

Whitman made only an oblique reference to the incident in her speech, which was devoted mainly to a defense of affirmative action and a pledge to ensure that no one gets left behind in the state's high-tech economy.

But in an interview afterward, Whitman said she realizes black anger over the photo has not completely disappeared.

"I'm not at all surprised there's still some resentment," she said. "That was a bad photo; there's no question."

In the 4-year-old photograph obtained by The Associated Press, Whitman is standing behind a black man, his arms spread, palms pressed against a wall. The governor is wearing jeans, a sweat shirt, a baseball cap and black gloves and appears to be smiling.

It was taken during a police sweep of a Camden neighborhood. The governor said

she participated in the pat-down search because she wanted to fully experience police work. The man in the photo was not charged with a crime.

Whitman's comments seemed to indicate a softening of her position on the photo. Immediately after it became public, she adopted a defiant stance and refused calls for her to apologize, suggesting critics were trying to "bully" her out of making reforms in Camden, New Jersey's poorest city, including a takeover of municipal government.

**I'm not at all surprised there's still some resentment...That was a bad photo; there's no question.**

Gov. Christine Todd Whitman

Before Whitman arrived at the convention, held at the Somerset Marriott, some speakers criticized the administration's handling of Camden, noting continued problems there.

"You look at Camden today, and if I lived in Camden, I'd say enough hasn't been done," Whitman said after her speech. "But it's more than has been done in any other administration. We have one of the finest charter schools in Camden. We have new housing starts; we're building new neighborhoods."

She suggested that more of the people surveyed would have supported tenure if the word "tenure" was replaced with the term "due process."

"When people have tenure, they don't have a job for life," Maher said. "That's not what tenure is."

She suggested that more of the people surveyed would have supported tenure if the word "tenure" was replaced with the term "due process."

While tenured teachers can be fired, Michael Maher of the New Jersey School Board Association said it's a difficult process most districts are reluctant to undertake. Firing a teacher can take up to 12 months and cost more than \$100,000 in legal fees.

The association opposes the current tenure system.

"Theoretically they can't be fired," Maher said. "Occasionally, they are. The blunt reality is it is so expensive to remove a teacher and so lengthy that only the worst violations are (homed) in."

Yaple said a 1994 survey done by the school boards association said many people don't under-

stand that tenure simply requires hearings for teachers before they can be fired.

Teachers qualify for tenure at the beginning of their fourth year of work. After that, districts must follow a process that allows teachers to defend themselves against complaints before they can be dismissed.

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Yaple said a 1994 survey done by the school boards association

indicated that districts undertook firing 30 tenured teachers in 1993. That was the last year the group did the survey, but he said the number has probably stayed the same.

Maher said that survey isn't the best indication of how often districts get rid of unsatisfactory teachers, because supervisors instead often urge unsuccessful teachers to leave their jobs.

"We see a lot of people counseled out of teaching," she said.

New Jersey became the first state to provide tenure to teachers.

## STATE

"The problem with Camden is getting past an administration that one after another has been stealing hope from the residents," the governor said.

Some NAACP officials said Whitman's appearance before the group should help ease tensions over the photo.

"I can't see her doing something deliberately negative toward anybody," said Mary Lee Gilmore, the New Jersey chapter's secretary. "People wonder why she did that photo. I think she did it because she was asked to; she didn't realize the negative

side of it."

"She's not that kind of person," Gilmore said. "I try to tell people that's not her."

Likewise, Raymond Daniels, who is heading the group's voter registration efforts, said he was encouraged Whitman addressed the past NAACP conferences as well.

"Her presence, I think, makes a great statement," he said. "Any opportunity for a (politician) from either party to reach out to minorities is a good thing."

## Passaic schools turn over documents in investigation

**School doctor accused of practicing with revoked license**

PASSAIC, N.J. (AP) — School officials have turned over several documents in connection with an ongoing probe of whether the district's doctor treated students after his license was revoked.

The probe of Edward S. Feldner began after the district, which has 11,000 students, received a tip that he had given up his medical license after admitting he wrote prescriptions for others that were for his own use.

Feldner was hired by the district in 1996 and received about \$50,000 a year. Holster said. School board members approved a new one-year contract for Feldner in August 1999, five days before his license was revoked by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners.

Superintendent of Schools Robert

Holster said last Monday that he turned over copies of Feldner's contract and his malpractice insurance policy to police.

"If the state had taken away his license five days before Feldner's contract was approved, instead of five days after, the police would be going after him for fraud, too," Holster told The Herald News of West Paterson for last Tuesday's edition.

School officials say they were not told by Feldner that he no longer held his license. He has not contacted the district since the probe began, Holster said.

The district has contracted with another physician to redo all of Feldner's recent work, including student physicals. They hope to hire a permanent replacement by the end of the year.

contracts.

The poll also asked if a teacher's pay should be based on job performance or something else. Seventy-one percent of the respondents said job performance should be the basis and 17 percent said something else. The other 12 percent said they were undecided or it depended on circumstances.

Asked what factors were most important in judging a teacher's job performance, respondents ranked standardized test scores at the top, and teacher experience and peer opinions at the bottom.

## New Jerseyans favor abolishing tenure for teachers

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A majority of New Jersey residents think public school teachers shouldn't have tenure, according to a Gannett New Jersey poll released last Sunday.

When asked if tenure should be retained or abolished, 59 percent said it should be scrapped, while only 30 percent favored keeping it.

Meanwhile, seven out of 10 of those surveyed said teachers' pay should be based on performance. Many liked using student scores on standardized tests as a benchmark.

Pollsters randomly surveyed 551 New Jersey adults by phone from Aug. 24 through Aug. 27. The poll has

a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Ralph Hammann of Moon Township said there was probably a good reason for creating tenure, but he still opposes it.

"It's counter to the way a lot of business is done, and it can allow teachers to coast," he told the Gannett New Jersey Bureau.

A New Jersey Education Association spokeswoman said the poll results indicate nothing new. Spokeswoman Lynn Maher said many people don't under-

stand that tenure simply requires hearings for teachers before they can be fired.

Teachers qualify for tenure at the beginning of their fourth year of work. After that, districts must follow a process that allows teachers to defend themselves against complaints before they can be dismissed.

"When people have tenure, they don't have a job for life," Maher said. "That's not what tenure is."

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Maher said that survey isn't the best indication of how often districts get rid of unsatisfactory teachers, because supervisors instead often urge unsuccessful teachers to leave their jobs.

"We see a lot of people counseled out of teaching," she said.

New Jersey became the first state to provide tenure to teachers.

in 1990. The system was created to protect teachers from arbitrary dismissals that occurred when control of city hall changed.

While there are no movements to eliminate tenure in New Jersey, Republican Assemblyman Guy Gregg of Morris County has proposed a bill to eliminate tenure for principals and other administrators.

In other states, tenure has become a hot issue. Georgia eliminated tenure, and a Louisiana gubernatorial committee recommends replacing it with individual

contracts.

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Central Ave. & Halsted St. at Dunkin' Donuts #2  
Central Ave. & Evergreen St.  
Central Ave. & Harrison St.  
Main St. at Post Office

Main St. & Cleveland N.  
Main St. & Day St.  
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# The mushroom that consumed an entire ninth-grade class.



**I**t all started very innocently with a small discovery in the woods near Memorial School in Millville, New Jersey. Biology students exploring the wetlands came upon a mushroom they'd never seen before. Textbooks failed to identify the unusual fungus.

That's when Ray Jacobs' ninth-grade class became consumed by something really big.

With the help of high-speed Internet access provided by Verizon, students found a fungus expert at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. They took photos of their mushroom, emailed Professor Tom Volk and in no time at all had their mushroom identified. Through the use of interactive video technology, they could even ask him questions directly.

Discoveries like this are taking place every day all over New Jersey. High-speed Internet connections and interactive video technology open doors and bring the world to the classroom by offering access to people, places and ideas regardless of geographic constraints.

Verizon's vision for the future of learning is a reality in New Jersey.

And it's just the beginning. For ninth graders in Millville, Access New Jersey<sup>SM</sup> means instant access to a world of knowledge. Which means they can spend less time in front of their computers and more time learning from the world just outside their doors. So while some believe technology is making the world a smaller place, we believe it's making the world bigger.



Verizon's commitment of \$80 million to deploy a high-speed network, and free equipment to connect to the network, will give New Jersey schools K-12 and public libraries with Internet access, interactive video and high-speed data transfer capabilities.



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## Lab learning helps fight cancer at Rider Univ.

LAWRENCEVILLE — This summer, several Rider University students were immersed in innovative research, thoroughly integrating cutting-edge technology with the knowledge they have gained in the classroom. For them, the lazy, hot days of summer beckons fun in the lab.

When it comes to breast cancer research, senior biology majors Benedicta Duhu of Bloomfield and Barbara Kuske of Piscataway are analyzing the roles enzymes play in breast cancer development.

"To find the best treatment for breast cancer, we need to find out how breast cancer grows, what impacts its growth and the role protease inhibitors play in their growth," said Kuske, who plans to attend medical school. Proteases are enzymes or substances such as hormones that may activate other proteins such as hormones and growth factors to act in stimulating cell growth. A protease inhibitor is a substance that could block the activation of that hormone and in turn block the growth of those cells, she noted.

By manipulating cell cultures with various enzymes in cell culture flasks, both students are focusing on TGF Alpha—the particular growth factor that is clipped off the cell membrane and stimulates breast cancer cells to grow. The cells under analysis come from deceased breast cancer patients. "So far we know that protease inhibitors are present in breast cancer cells, but we're trying to define the different factors that influence it in order to shed further light on the disease process," added Duhu, who also plans to attend medical school.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Yavelow, professor of biology, Duhu, a native of the Volta Region in Ghana, and Kuske, a native of Leipzig, East Germany, know they are taking small steps in the right direction toward medical progress.

"Benedicta and Barbara have fallen in love with their work. They care greatly about what they are doing," said Yavelow, whose work is supported by an NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grant. "It is great to see that they are working to find creative and effective ways to kill breast cancer cells. Both of these students are fine examples of what Rider is all about—transforming students into first-rate professionals."

## Corzine

Continued from A-1

increase the amount of spending. According to Corzine, only 7 percent of the federal government's educational spending budget is currently spent on education in the state — which he believes puts more burden on the state to depend heavily on property taxes which contributes to unfair funding distributions in the state's educational system.

"We need to increase our pie all around," he said and intends to push his efforts to increase funding for programs like Head Start and after school community based programs pass if he's elected.

Corzine has also been pushing for the Hope Scholarship program which would guarantee students with a B average two years of higher education.

## Prudential donates backpacks to kids

# Celebrities turn out for Baraka campaign benefit

Lauren Hill showed skill on the auction block



Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Wanda Wilson and DJ Qua were happy to attend the benefit auction.



At the auction, Stage Manager, Spencer Graves; Boxer Nasir Graham; '76 Olympic Gold Medalist Boxer Howard Davis Jr.

In Newark, recently Lauren Hill proved that on top of her singing and rapping abilities, she has auctioning skills, too.

Hosted by HOT 97's DJ Steph Lova and local entertainer L.A. Suave, the Celebrity Auction to benefit Ray Baraka's 2002 bid for Newark City Council seat drew 200 people.

Performers included Tracy Dexter on University Records, Fundisla on Epic Records; Joey Carter on Park Records; unsigned artist, Jahidi, and a drumming group from St. Peter's Recreation Center.

Hill auctioned off a "Miseducation of Lauren Hill" jacket that commanded some \$250. The other highlight of the event was a poem by Gwendolyn Brooks that commanded \$200; and shoes and a hat that were worn in "Bring in da noise, bring in da funk" by Savion Glover which bought in \$700; a poem from Maya Angelou that went for \$1500; and a copy of the book "Blues People," which was donated by Amiri Baraka, Sr.

The crowd did get a treat, as Lauren sang a verse from her song "Zion."

By the end of the night, a generous Baraka supporter offered to buy all remaining items for \$25,000.

The crowd did get a treat, as Lauren sang a verse from her song "Zion."

By the end of the night, a generous Baraka supporter offered to buy all remaining items for \$25,000.

—Going once, going twice, sold!—



Lauren Hill auctions her jacket

## Caldwell College breaks ground for new \$8.2 million student activities recreation center



College and local officials break ground on the new center.

CALDWELL, NJ — State and local officials will join the Caldwell College community Sept. 16 for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of a new Student Activities and Recreation Center. The ceremony took place on the parking lot adjacent to the Student Center.

The 60,000 square foot Student Activities and Recreation Center is anticipated to be completed in January 2002 for \$8.2 million, will house a large gym with two practice basketball courts, which can be used simultaneously, and a game court with retractable seating for 1,400 spectators. A running/walking track will be built around the perimeter of the gym above the basketball courts.

The new center will also have meeting and activity rooms, a game room, student activities offices, a relocated fitness center, aerobics room, locker rooms and athletic offices. The college's

bookstore will also be relocated to the building and expanded.

The groundbreaking ceremony follows completion of a phase one Loop Roadway project this summer to improve campus parking.

The Loop Roadway, which provides campus-wide linear parking and two-way traffic patterns, adds almost 300 additional parking spaces and keeps most of the automobile traffic away from the heart of the campus.

The campus now has a total of over 950 parking spaces compared to 360 spaces previously. Also, additional spaces were added to the Mother Joseph Residence Hall parking lot for students living on campus to bring the total spaces there to approximately 140.

The Loop Roadway project also made available new campus lighting, landscaping and the construction of walkways from the parking areas to the interior of the campus.

Committee, offers Prudential employees a tangible way to make a difference in the lives of children.

"Not only do these backpacks bring smiles to the faces of some of New Jersey's poorest children, they also symbolize stability and provide each child with something they can call their own," said Gabriella Morris, vice president of Community Resources and president of The Prudential Foundation.

## Christmas honored for saving lives

continued from A-1

NEWARK — Last Sunday, the Metropolitan Baptist Church paid tribute to Dana Christmas, who was severely burned in a tragic fire at Seton Hall University dormitory on Jan. 19. Special presentations will be made to the 22-year-old senior who risked her own life to rescue students living in the Boland Hall dormitory where she served as a resident assistant.

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, extended an invitation to members of the greater Newark community to join in the recognition of this "she-ro" at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, Sept. 17. "When someone in our community does something that's good, we need to hold him or her up," said Dr. Jefferson.

Ms. Christmas, a criminal justice major at Seton Hall, collapsed from exhaustion and smoke inhalation before being rescued, according to her, by a "guardian angel" in a white shirt. NBC Liturgical dancers will perform to "Angel Watching Over Me" by Richard Smallwood and the music department sang BeBe Winans' "In Harm's Way."

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# CITYLIFE

September 27 - October 3, 2000

City News B1

## After the struggles comes the celebration for Symphony Hall

### A Newark arts institution celebrates its 75 anniversary

By Kelly Foster

**F**or the past 75 years, the Newark Symphony Hall has been a bastion of performing arts in Newark. From comedy, to dance, to pop music, to gospel — this original home of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the New Jersey State Opera has entertained both white and black audiences for generations. This year, despite financial and leadership problems, Symphony Hall is commemorating its longevity by holding a series of performances, ongoing from now through December, to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

"We want this 75th anniversary celebration to bring awareness to the city," said Roslyn Lightfoot, acting executive director of the Newark Performing Art Corporation, the group that manages Newark Symphony Hall. "We're trying to let people know what they have here, and to get them to come out... They'll find all areas of the performing arts right here."

The city of Newark was predominately white when the theater opened on Oct. 25, 1925. It was originally built as a temple for the Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, a fraternal order. The building boasts four floors, and a lower level.

During the depression years, according to Lightfoot, the Hall was used as a movie theater, and in 1938 the Griffith Music Foundation took over operations, headed by philanthropist Parker Griffith.

Lightfoot recalled that although black people were allowed admission to the shows, and there were no segregated seating, "there weren't a lot of blacks that came during that time. They (the theater) catered to the community."

After Griffith died, the theater lost a lot of its funding.

In the 1960's the City of Newark purchased the building and established it as the present day Newark Symphony Hall.

"They flourished for a while," said Lightfoot. "They had the Rolling Stones, Peter, Paul and Mary, Marian Anderson — all the top performers played that hall, both blacks and whites."

The theater closed when the Newark Symphony Hall Corporation, manager of the theater at the time, was not able to maintain the enterprise.

"The Newark Symphony Corporation did a lot of renovations and the funds ran out; it got to be too costly to maintain," Lightfoot said about the Newark Performing Arts Corporation's predecessor. "It was bad funding and a lack of programming."

Then in 1986, the Newark Performing Arts Corporation took over management of the Hall, but that was not the end of the financial problems for the struggling theater.

Miguel Rodriguez, chairman of the board of directors of the corporation, said the theater was receiving funds from the New Jersey Arts Council up until 1997.

Then the board's fiscal officer resigned, and paperwork was not completed on time. Rodriguez said the corporation plans to submit a proposal for funding by the end of the year.

"We're going to apply for more money from the Council," he said. "Also, we have a lot of people, such as senior citizens, volunteering their time... this 75th anniversary is acting as a fund-raiser, so we can improve conditions of the theater. We have pulled ourselves together, and the Board is more active now."

The Board also plans to solicit funding from private organizations.

The theater's main problems, according to Lightfoot, have been poor maintenance of the facility, and lack of leadership



Symphony Hall's majestic Sarah Vaughn Hall. Below, Newark Symphony Hall's Broad Street canopy and Terrace Ballroom entrance welcome showgoers.

stability. "It went through heavy renovation and restoration," she said.

The heating system was updated, sound and lighting equipment was restored and fire doors were added.

Maintenance on the theater continues, with plumbing and electrical equipment being checked. Air conditioning will be added to the entire theater.

Lightfoot said the theater continues to struggle financially, and has not had a consistent executive director for a while. "It's been up and down — there was no stability; no one stayed for any length of time." Lightfoot's position is temporary. Formerly an executive assistant to the business administrator, she came to her current position when the corporation asked the city for leadership.

"We're trying to make it the cultural center again in Newark," she said.

The community enjoys many uses of the theater other than for performances. Many local organizations and clubs hold meetings, dances, and annual programs at the Hall — even wedding receptions are held there.

Both older and younger people are drawn to the theater, according to Lightfoot, which offers many family attractions, including one of its biggest draws — the gospel plays.

Comedians also draw large crowds. "We've also sold out the place with Patti LaBelle and Steve Harvey," Lightfoot said. "Last year we kicked off the season with Jynal Vanzant. We saw a lot of mothers and daughters there."

On October 22, the theater is looking forward to Grammy Award winning singer Gladys Knight and jazz flutist Bobbi Humphrey, highlights of the 75th anniversary performances to come.



Leading the charge to revitalize Newark Symphony Hall is its Board of Directors and other Hall staff. Pictured, clockwise, are Miguel Rodriguez, board of director president; Roslyn L. Lightfoot, acting executive director; Kabu Okai-Davies, director of the African Globe Theatre; Oscar James, Symphony Hall general manager; and Nathaniel Potts, board member.

#### Upcoming events at Symphony Hall

1020 Broad Street, (973) 643-8009

September 29-30 "Dream Girls", 8 p.m.

October

October 13-15 "Be Careful What You Pray For," 3 p.m.

October 15 Roy Ayers & Cynthia Holiday, 5 p.m.

October 20 "Sisters in the Spirit," featuring

Yolanda Adams, Shirley Caesar & Mary Mary 8 p.m.

October 22 Gladys Knight, Bobbi Humphrey, 8 p.m.

October 28 Sankofa Dance Theatre's Celebration 1, 8 p.m.

October 29 Pieces of A Dream and Pat Tandy, 5 p.m.

November

November 9-12 T.D. Jakes' "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," 8 p.m.

November 11 75th Anniversary Dance Gala, 9 p.m.

November 17-19 "The Daughters of Lee Roi Jones," 8 p.m.

November 18-19 "If Loving You is Wrong," 8 p.m., 9 p.m.

November 19 "The Daughters of Lee Roi Jones," 3 p.m.





WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

**SPRINGFIELD** — The Sharing Network is holding a open house for volunteers. For more information, call (873) 379-4555.

**JERSEY CITY** — Loewy Wellness Center is sponsoring a support group for breast cancer survivors from 6-8 p.m. For more information, call (201) 915-2000 ext. 3178.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Saint Peter's Hospital is holding a voter registration drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (732) 745-6899.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

**SECAUCUS** — Mataponi and Sons Hospital is offering a mammogram class on Thursdays and Mondays. For more information, call (201) 392-3180.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**JERSEY CITY** — 100 Black Men of New Jersey's 5th annual "A Village Gathering" will be held on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on call (201) 915-2042.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Saint Peter's University Hospital is offering a program for adults with emphysema, chronic bronchitis and asthma. For more information, call (732) 745-8600.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

**TEANECK** — Holy Name Hospital is offering an Organizational Therapy program. For more information, call (201) 833-3186.

**TEANECK** — Holy Name Hospital is sponsoring a seminar on menopause and breast health. From 7:30 p.m. For more information call (201) 833-7100.

**Send your heartbeat calendar events to:**  
City News Heartbeat  
111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F  
Newark, NJ 07102

**100 Black Men gather for the 4th annual Village family health gathering**

**First event will take place Sept. 30**

**EAST ORANGE** — 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Inc., will present a series of "Village Family Gatherings" during the month of September, which has been designated by Gov. Christine Whitman as Minority Health Month.

Hosted by Reverend Joseph Jones and the congregation of Monumental Baptist Church in Jersey City, the first event kicks off Sept. 30, Dr. Eric Webb, Lafayette Park and Monumental Baptist Church.

Each of the three Family Village Gatherings will be free to the public and include music, food, games, athletic competition and other family activities. There will also be a focus on health screenings and education for individuals that would otherwise receive little preventive care.

Minority health problems can be traced to a lack of health insurance, a shortage of healthcare facilities and providers, or a lack of information in these communities pertaining to what individuals can do themselves to help safeguard their health.

"Our organization is committed to empowering urban communities. Healthy families are key to communities being able to retain employment, advance in the job market and the success of children in school. The festive atmosphere of the fair makes it easier for people to discuss sensitive issues such as if what parents feed their children is really healthy for them or the free prostate screening available at the Jersey City fair," said 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Executive Vice President Keith DaCosta.

By John McElhenny  
Associated Press Writer

**BOSTON** (AP) — The state will spend \$600,000 to see if petroleum pollution in largely black city neighborhoods contributes to lupus, a potentially deadly immune disease, officials said recently.

The research will target three areas of the city with unusually high levels of petroleum contamination: Mattapan, Roxbury and North Dorchester.

Recent evidence has been uncovered linking petroleum to a higher risk of developing lupus, according to the state Department of Public Health.

Researchers hope to determine if the three communities, which all are predominantly black, have more cases of lupus than the average city.

Lupus affects women more than men, and black women more than white women. About 1 in 10,000 white women contract the disease, while 1 in 250 black women contract it, said Suzanne Condon, the state's assistant commissioner for environmental

health. Complicating the study is the presence in the three neighborhoods — all heavily urbanized areas — of an unusually high number of gas stations, where underground gas tanks may have leaked over the years.

Petroleum contamination has also been linked to manufacturers, furniture refinishers and other companies that use petroleum-based solvents.

Bobbie Drake-Saucer, of Roxbury, was 41 when she began suffering from eye irritation that doctors initially diagnosed as conjunctivitis.

When eye medicine didn't help, doctors began treating it with allergy medicine. It was only later, after she lost hair, weight, and developed profound fatigue, muscle stiffness and joint pains, that doctors diagnosed her with Lupus.

Drake-Saucer lives near the

site of the old Modern Electropolating plant, a site so contaminated that the federal government gave the city \$6.8 million last year to clean it up.

**About 1 in 1,000 white women contract the disease, while 1 in 250 black women contract it.**

Suzanne Condon  
State's assistant commissioner  
for environmental health

Condon said: "Most similarly sized communities would have a dozen or two dozen contaminated sites."

"It only makes sense to see if there's a relationship between these petroleum contamination sites and the large number of diagnoses in these African-American women," said Roseanne Pawelec,

a spokeswoman for the Department of Public Health.

Lupus affects the body's autoimmune system instead of attacking viruses or bacteria. The Lupus victim's antibodies turn on their own tissues, attacking the kidneys, lungs, brain and other organs.

The disease can be life-threatening in some cases, said Dr. Tim M. McAlindon, a rheumatologist at the Boston Medical Center.

## Cohen measure safeguards aid for hemophiliacs

**TRENTON** — Governor Christine Todd Whitman recently signed into law a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Deputy Majority Leader Mark Cohen that would require managed care plans to contract with home care providers who meet quality standards for treating hemophiliacs.

"Hemophilia is a sensitive disorder that requires special care and attention," said Cohen (D-Union) "Inadequate or insufficient care could have tragic consequences when a patient suffers from hemophilia."

Cohen sponsored the measure with Assemblyman Christopher Kip Bateman (R-Somerset) in an effort to provide consistent and uninterrupted care for hemophiliacs.

Under the new law, providers would have to comply with standards adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Some home care providers are not knowledgeable of the treatment needed by hemophiliacs and therefore do not provide the necessary services that are crucial to the patient," said Cohen.

"Hemophilia is a serious medical condition that requires nothing less than the most competent of care."

The standards outlined in the new law specify that a provider must:

• Provide services pursuant to a prescription from the individual's

doctor and not make substitutions of blood without approval from the doctor.

• Provide all brands of clotting products and ancillary supplies to execute treatment regimens as prescribed by their doctor.

• Have the ability to deliver blood products, medications and nursing services within three hours and maintain a 24-hour on-call service.

• Demonstrate knowledge of bleeding disorders.

• Demonstrate the ability to properly maintain records, including third party reimbursements.

• Provide for the removal of hazardous waste; and

• Provide covered persons with a written copy of the agency's policy regarding discontinuation of services and the expected costs of medications and services provided by the agency that are not covered by the health plan.

The law directs the Department of Health and Senior Services to compile a list of eligible providers who comply with the above requirements and make that list available to the public.

Finally, the law requires insurers to reimburse laboratories with an outpatient service at state-designated hemophilia centers regardless of whether the lab is contracting with a participating provider under certain conditions.

## FDA okays generic cancer drug

**WASHINGTON** (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration recently approved the first generic version of the popular cancer drug Taxol, a move that promises to bring breast and ovarian cancer patients cheaper therapy.

Ivax Corp. of Miami said its generic paclitaxel will be available later this fall. While Ivax would not reveal the price, company president Neil Flanzraich noted generic drugs typically debut 30 percent cheaper than their brand-name competitors.

"This is going to be sold at a significantly reduced price," he

said.

Taxol therapy can cost \$5,000 to \$7,000, depending on the extent of treatment.

Taxol is one of the most widely used treatments for breast and ovarian cancer, expected to earn manufacturer Bristol Myers Squibb Co. \$1.2 billion in U.S. sales this year.

Generic paclitaxel is safe and effective, and in the body is equivalent to Taxol, said Gary Buehler, FDA's generic drug chief.

There is a slight difference in how the two products are made. Generic paclitaxel is made from the needles of yew trees. Flanzraich said Bristol Myers Squibb makes Taxol synthetically.

The FDA was ready to approve paclitaxel on Aug. 28, but a last-minute patent fight delayed the action three weeks ago, as a federal appeals court in California lifted the last legal hurdle, a patent request that could have delayed generic competition by another 30

months.

Taxol was discovered by the taxpayer-funded National Cancer Institute, which licensed the drug to Bristol-Myers. It was approved in 1992 as second-line therapy for advanced ovarian or breast cancer. Taxol today is also used against AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma and lung cancer.

Only in the first breast and ovarian patients have expired, and thus the FDA formally approved generic paclitaxel just for those patients. But it is legal for physicians to use generic paclitaxel for other patients.

For the FDA, the delay was 25 percent after a federal judge reversed an order that would have extended Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s current lock on sales, closed up 6 percent, or \$2.50 per share, at \$43.75 on the American Stock Exchange. Bristol-Myers stock was up 12.5 cents at \$53.44 a share on the New York Stock Exchange.

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## Health Highlights

**Newark Health Dept. offers Back to School immunizations**

**NEWARK** — On Aug. 2, the City of Newark's Department of Health and Human Services introduced the Back to School Fast Track Program that extends immunization clinic hours to include evenings.

The program continues through Oct. 5. Hours are Monday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The program takes place at the Department of Health and Human Services, 110 Williams St.

Also, Newark's Bureau of Vital Statistics will open its doors during the same hours to accommodate the back to school needs of parents and students.

Parents must first come to Newark's health department with their children's immunization records for an immunization assessment. Parents can also obtain birth certificates from the Vital Statistics office.

"We have increased the accessibility of health care services for our residents to ensure that our children are properly immunized and healthy. We hope that all Newark residents will take advantage of the services offered by our health department," said Mayor Sharlene James.

The department has adjusted and extended the hours of service to enable working parents and guardians to gather all documents required for the school registration process. "Parents registering their children for school for the first time are required to have a copy of their child's birth certificate and proof of immunization," he added.

"I encourage parents or guardians of new school registrants to come out and participate in our Back to School Fast Track Program. It is our goal to ensure that Newark's children are prepared to start the new school year and are immunized properly, healthy and ready for school," said Newark Department of Health and Human Services Director, Catherine Cuneo.

For more information, please contact Immunization Coordinator, Darlene Williams, Newark Department of Health and Human Services Immunization at (973) 733-7580 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Chelsea Clinton helps launch anti-smoking campaign**

**MELBOURNE**, Australia (AP) — Chelsea Clinton recently joined an Australian women's soccer team to help launch an anti-smoking campaign aimed at girls and young women.

Clinton is representing her family at the Sydney Olympics.

The campaign centerpiece is a poster with the message, "Be strong, be free, smoke free" and photographs of four Australian women soccer stars.

U.S. Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said the campaign was based on a partnership forged four years ago between her department and the U.S. women's soccer team.

"We have been focusing on very young people and we have had some success in this campaign," Shalala said.



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Send your local health event information to City News Heartbeat, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F, Newark, NJ 07102 at least three weeks prior to event.

## KC's Jazz district hits a sour note as development stalls

By Melanie Coffey  
Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — It's a hot, quiet Saturday night. Footsteps from a sprinkling of people shuffle softly down the sidewalks along Vine Street, Kansas City's hallowed ground of jazz.

Each visitor's step searches for the sounds drifting from The Blue Room jazz club on the corner of 18th and Vine, the intersection that helped shape bebop's zigzagging style as perhaps the city's cornerstone contribution to American popular culture.

Many songs were written about this part of Kansas City. But those tunes were about the days when 18th and Vine was anything but quiet on Saturday nights. Things are different now.

In its beginnings, the district was a center for black culture and commerce in the 1920s when public segregation ruled. For decades, doctors, lawyers and celebrities would descend on the district's many restaurants, pick its cozy speakeasies and listen to the likes of Count Basie, Jay McShann and Charlie "Bird" Parker.

But, eventually, 18th and Vine ran its course. The crowds left, the buildings deteriorated. By the 1950s, urban blight was in the area and crime took hold. Wailing trumpets were replaced by screaming sirens.

Jazz and history enthusiasts have been attempting to bring back the district, restoring the area's luster and returning to

president of Jazz District Redevelopment Corp., which now oversees the revitalization. "There seemed to have been some foot-dragging and too much oversight by the bureaucrats involved."

Several groups have been involved in the restoration. The Black Economic Union started the effort, and then JDRC took charge in 1997. Several local churches also pitched in.

But all the help only exacerbated the problem. "The project kept changing hands," Chaney said. "Sometimes it's confusing to know which group to call for help if a problem comes up."

That lack of a unifying force and focus, Young said, has stalled the district's entire growth.

Few episodes in Vine Street's revival better typify the district's problems than the one involving Sylvia's restaurant, the district's attempt at bringing full service dining to a tourist destination that had none. Until only recently, buying even a cup of coffee was impossible.

In the mid-1990s, the Black Economic Union asked New York-based Sylvia's — a soul food eatery — to move to the district. The proposal enraged local restaurateurs, who complained that if the city wanted to offer a taste of Kansas City to accompany its homegrown jazz, then why court an out-of-town restaurant?

Still, city officials moved ahead and advertised Sylvia's arrival. But the deal fell through, and Sylvia's opted out.

So far, the American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, which are housed in the same neon-lit building as The Blue Room, are the district's biggest attractions. Total attendance this year is the most since the Gem Theater and jazz club — all of which Kansas City owns — dropped to 250,000 from 350,000, said Rawenn Stewart, head of the jazz museum and 18th and Vine Authority.

Steve Bunn of Overland Park, Kan., recently visited the district but came away disappointed.

"I had heard this was the Jazz District, but there's not much here except for some nice buildings and one jazz club," she said on a recent night at The Blue Room. "You'd think there'd be more clubs here."

Day visitors will confront the construction work going on in the district. Bulldozers gut out lots behind facades while jack hammers pound away at other points. Critics are happy work is

underway but complain it's long overdue.

"I just think it's a shame that after 11 or 12 years we don't see anything but what's down here now," said Young.

Be patient,

Fleming says.

"People won't be so impatient when come February and you see buildings that will be up."

Fleming said. "By then we'll have leases signed and by March we'll turn the keys over to the tenants."

The restoration project is estimated to cost \$35 million, \$14.2 million of which will be federal funds the city will acquire through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The first phase — completing shells of four buildings available for businesses and apartments — is expected to be finished by February 2001. The entire project is slated for completion in 2004, Fleming said.

District advocates are promising local flavor. The JDRC has received letters of intent from local, minority-owned businesses for most of the commercial space that include restaurants, a day spa and boutiques, Fleming said.

Some say the district had better not wait too long to get going. Jazz popularity is reaching new lows in America, with the genre accounting for less than two percent of the market and sales dropping steadily, according to the National Association of Recording Merchants.

"I think our community takes this area to heart, because so much of our history comes from this area," Chaney said. "I think this could be a cultural mecca if it's done right."



Inside the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, MO

Kansas City the buzz that once landed it on the musical map. Yet with more than two decades of planning and about \$38.8 million in public money, only a few blocks of the seven-square-block district have been rehabilitated. Deteriorating facades and run-down buildings comprise much of the area, and attendance at its centerpiece attractions — two museums, a theater and a night club — is falling. What's more, locals and conventioners complain about the lack of even one full-service restaurant.

The shortcomings are hitting a sour note with critics and an impatient public.

"I think it's all just going too slow. We need to get the project done," said Ronald Chaney, who moved his Ethnic Arts gallery and frame shop to the district to support the district's rebirth.

"You don't see any traffic in this area," he says. "I want to see more people walking through here, but we're still here because we believe in the project and we want to see this thing work."

Between the 1920s and 1950s, Vine Street bubbled with activity. Clubs and casinos were packed. Even when they closed, patrons hoofed it six blocks down for wee-hours jam sessions.

"When you sit down and talk to people about the district, they'll talk about the movies they went to see for a nickel at the Gem, the parties they used to have in the street, the parades and the black business clubs they had down here," said A. Marie Young, executive director of the Black Chamber of Commerce. "This was THE place in town."

It didn't last.

Reformers eager to shed Kansas City's gangster image — in the shadow of legendary political boss Tom Pendergast — moved to shut down the section's thriving shops. And positive forces like desegregation and urban renewal eventually pushed blacks further away from the district.

Kansas City's vibrant staging ground for bebop jazz was muted.

Then in the late 1970s, Horace Peterson III, former director of the Black Archives of Mid-America, proposed to bring it all back. A few years later, the Black Economic Union, a community improvement group, started acquiring land and rebuilding the district.

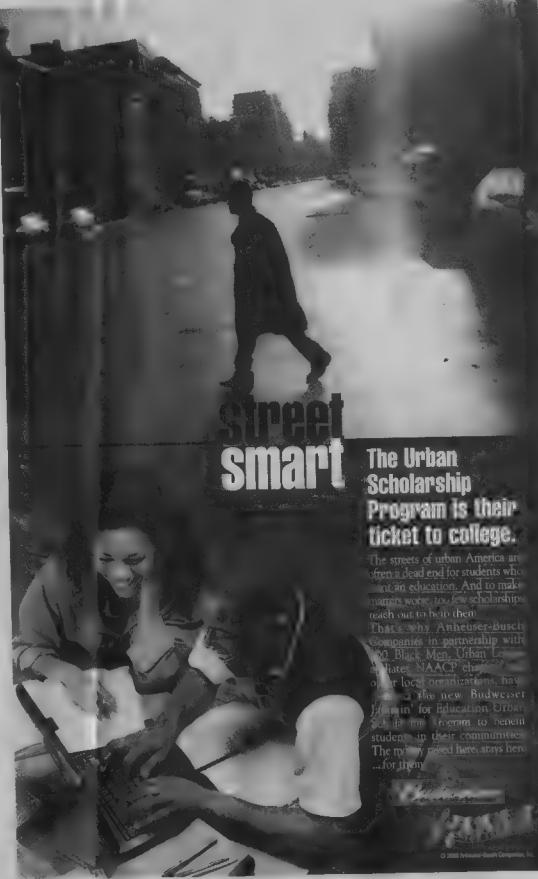
The area became part of the "Cleaver Plan" in 1989, a proposal by then-councilman Emanuel Cleaver to use taxpayers' money to revitalize the district, among other city improvements.

Cleaver eventually became mayor and two other projects under his wing got off to quick starts. But the jazz district lagged — the victim of confusion over the district's direction amid leadership.

Civic leaders couldn't agree on how to design the district. Growth slowed with overzealous developments complained and often didn't communicate with each other.

It didn't take long for competing restoration proposals to delay construction, and plans had to be rewritten and approved again by city zones.

The district was choking on its own bureaucracy. "I wasn't here at the time, but it seems that we didn't have the kind of support that we thought we had," said Al Fleming.



The Urban  
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Program is their  
ticket to college.

The streets of urban America are often a dead end for students who want an education. And to make matters worse, too few scholarships reach out to help them. That's why Anheuser-Busch Companies, in partnership with the Black Men, Urban League, NAACP and other local organizations, have created the new Budweiser Learn for Education Urban Scholarship to reward and encourage students in their communities. The money raised here stays here... for them.

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# ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC

## BLURBS

### La India 'the Princess of Salsa' at NJPAC

**NEWARK** — Capturing the sights, sounds, rhythms and movement of other cultures, the World Festival IV events span four continents and showcase a variety of genres from salsa to Gumbie, calypso to hip hop; Butoh to retro funk.

Leading off the World Festival IV calendar will be Puerto Rican-born and Bronx, New York raised La India (Oct. 8), dubbed "the Princess of Salsa," whose most recent CD, "Sobre El Fuego" was released by UNIR/MRM Records in 1999.



According to *Jazz Times*, "She belts, she growls, she croons. She's a huge talent." La India has collaborated with Latin music's most influential musicians, blending traditional salsa with jazz, hip-hop, blues and funk into an intense, driving new rhythm for the twenty-first century. Appearing with La India is Cuban-born, Bamboleo, called a surprisingly fine jazz ensemble by *The Los Angeles Times*, whose "pumping beats pour along till it all comes into a rush pure sax-led adenine," says *The Beat Magazine*.

### Urban League to host Masquerade Ball

**Event to benefit Urban League Child Development Center**

**NEWARK** — The Board of Trustees of the Urban League of Essex County will host its 3rd Annual Monte Carlo Masquerade Ball 2000 to benefit the Urban League of Essex County's Child Development Center.

### New guide showcases New Jersey's culture

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ** — The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission is pleased to announce the production of its pocket guide. This 2 1/2 x 4 1/4" guide is a handy reference to historic sites such as the Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County Museum and East Jersey Old Town Village. Both locations are properties of the Commission.

"We are extremely pleased with the finished product. The pamphlet was designed to be small enough to carry in

your wallet or in vehicle storage, yet easy enough to read and use as a referral source," remarked Anna Aschkenasy, Executive Director of the Commission.

The guide contains directions, a brief description and history of the sites as well as services provided. For more information or to obtain free copies, contact the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission at (732) 775-4489 (Voice) or 732-775 3888 (TTY).

# Movies

## 'The great dance' is a great story

**Cinema Village Theater**  
22 East 12th St  
New York City

**NEW YORK** — Opening, Sept. 29, at the Cinema Village Theater in New York, "The Great Dance: A hunter's story" tells of the unique relationship between the San and their environment seen through the experience of hunting and tracking with a band of 'Gwi and 'Xo San in the Central Kalahari. Tracking, hunting and survival are inextricably linked but hunting is also an important cultural and social fact. There is a need to eat meat, there is also a need just to hunt. Hunger and malnutrition are very real problems, but hunting in itself is a pleasurable, exciting, challenging and fulfilling experience and it is socially/culturally important for men to engage in this activity. Men behave as men when they hunt. Women, of course, also play an important and integral role in tracking and observing signs whilst they go about their other tasks; all members of the community help to build the knowledge base.

During the movie viewers understand that most of their nutrition comes from plant foods

(fruits, berries, roots, and leaves) and most of their meat protein comes from hunting, snaring and even scavenging. The latter involves chasing other predators off their kills or even eating parts of old carcasses - with the meat sometimes so rotten that it might kill someone not habituated to this. "The Great Dance" shows that hunting/live game, however, has a special place in the San culture.

Journey to Africa as you witness the hunting experience - in the words and through the eyes of the San, what hunting and tracking mean to them from an experimental (emotional and intellectual), a physical (survival), and a historical (the old days versus the present reality) perspective. This is the art, science, raw and undiluted experience of hunting and tracking.

Through "The Great Dance" we understand why hunting is a multi faceted experience: spiritual (closeness to the animals), mythological (animals were once human, animals have language), cultural (it defines a man in their society), human psyche (it is an exciting challenge and a pleasurable fulfilling experience), practical (meat protein food).

So, if you liked "Survivor," you may like the raw, yet beautiful discovery found in "The Great Dance."

# Movie Review

## Jamie Foxx offers more 'Bait' for fans already 'Held Up'

By Kam Williams

I can't believe that they let Jamie Foxx back on a movie set so soon after robbing his fans with the bitterly disappointing "Held Up." The only thing I liked about "Held Up" was that it meant I only needed to find nine more films for My Ten Worst List this year. After "Bait," I only need eight more. Bugs must be eating the brain of Foxx, star of the eponymous WB Network TV show. How else can one explain his enthusiastic participation in a project which resounds outdated, offensive themes?

The film is directed by Antoine Fuqua ("The Replacement Killers") who won awards for his work on rap videos for CeeLo ("Gangsters' Paradise") and Heavy D & the Boyz. Fuqua tapped the Hollywood hack screenwriting team of Andrew and Adam Schenman ("Mickey Blue Eyes") and "Little Big League."

Bait has a promising enough premise. Federal agents impede a crack-dealing street hustler and release him from prison so he can catch a big fish, a crook who has stolen \$24,000,000 in gold bullion from the Federal Reserve. Sounds like a plot that ought to keep you on the edge of your seat, right? Wrong.

Superficially, the film bears a basic resemblance to formulaic action-adventure fare: fistfights, weaponry, car chases and pyrotechnics. But the flaws in the execution of "Bait's" execrable storyline are encyclopedic. The drama rapidly degenerates from improbable to implausible, to farcical, to insulting. By the end, I felt like I was the one baited, hooked by a good idea that was never developed.

As the action begins, petty pawn thief Alvin Sanders (Foxx) shares a jail cell with a crook who pulled off a hi-tech gold heist. For some reason, the con whispers clues to Alvin about the buried treasure just

before he kicks the bucket (ala Jimmy Durante in "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"). The expring cardigan case mumbles stuff like "There's no place like home" and "The Bronx Zoo" before expiring.

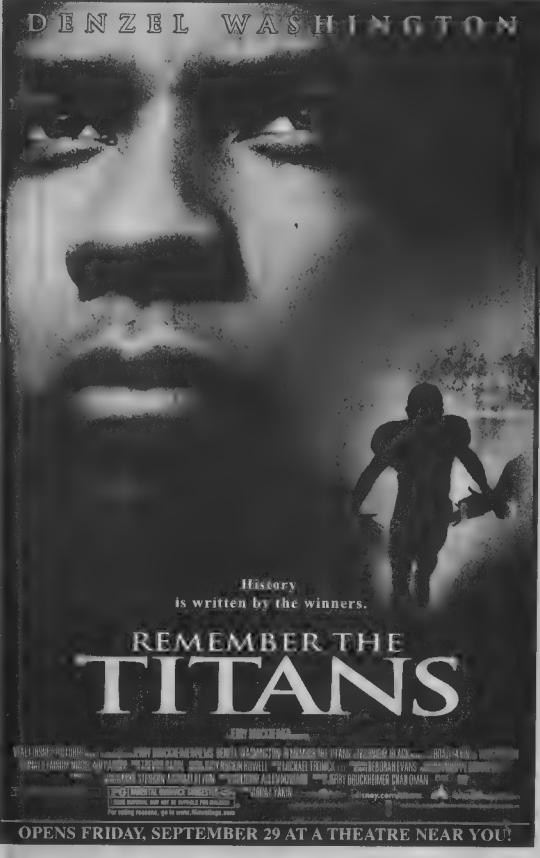
Enter Fed Investigator Edgar Cleanteen (David Morse) who batches a cockamamie plot to surgically-insert a bug in Sanders in order to find Bristol (Doug Hutchinson), the brains behind the billion haul. But when they release the unaware Alvin back to the streets of Brooklyn, the recidivist wastes little time running afoul of the law again.

In fact, crime is in his blood. Although the Feds give Alvin \$5,000, they observe him immediately planning his next caper with his brother. But because Cleanteen needs Alvin out of prison to catch Bristol, he directs his agents to intervene before he robs again. They have to ram Alvin's car on the way to a marked-out crime scene where he is certain to end up back in the slammer. Subsequently, the Feds bring him an additional \$6,500, but apparently no amount of money can keep him straight.

So, the film's patently offensive running "joke" is that Alvin is genetically crime-prone and that no amount of money would deter him from breaking the law, refuting the idea that social factors such as poverty or unemployment might have played a part in his prior choices. Such a positioning of the inner-city black as criminal-by-nature is outdated and mean-spirited to say the least. But "Bait" makes that conclusion inescapable by contrasting that harmful image so sharply with a lily-white Federal presence, lampooning Alvin's every move from a condescendingly paternal, point-of-view.

—Rated R for violence, profanity, brief nudity and sexual situations.

**Rating**  
**No stars**



## Watch out: The advance-fee loan shark may be lurking

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Unwary consumers, beware of the advance-fee loan "sharks."

A different breed of "loan shark" is preying on unwary consumers by taking their money for the promise of a loan, credit card or other extension of credit.

Advertisements and promotions for advance-fee loans "guarantee" or suggest that there's a high likelihood of success that the loan will be awarded, regardless of the applicant's credit history. But, to take advantage of the offer, the consumer first has to pay a fee. That's the catch: The consumer pays the fee, the scam artist takes off with a loan and asks you to pay for it before they deliver.

Legitimate guaranteed offers of credit do not require payments up front. Legitimate lenders may require consumers to pay application, appraisal or credit report fees, but these fees seldom are required before the lender is identified and the application completed. In addition, the fees are generally paid to the lender, not to the broker or arranger of the "guaranteed" loan.

Legitimate lenders may guarantee firm offers of credit to credit-worthy consumers, but they rarely do this before evaluating a consumer's credit-worthiness.

Advertisements for advance-fee loans generally appear in the

classified section of daily and weekly newspapers and magazines. Often, the ads feature "900" numbers, which result in charges to your phone bill.

Advance-fee loans are also promoted through direct-mail and radio and cable TV spots. The appearance of loans in your local newspaper or radio station is no guarantee of the legitimacy of the company behind the ad.

The Federal Trade Commission says you can avoid being bitten by advance-fee loan sharks with the following advice:

- Don't pay for a promise. It's illegal for companies doing business by phone to promise you a loan and ask you to pay for it before they deliver.

- Ignore any ad — or hang up on the caller — that guarantees a loan in exchange for an advance fee. Legitimate lenders never "guarantee" or say that you will receive a loan before you apply, especially if you have bad credit or no credit record.

- Never give your credit card or bank account numbers, or Social Security Number, over the telephone unless you are familiar with the company and know why the information is necessary.

If you have fallen prey to an advance-fee loan scam, file a complaint with the FTC. Call toll-free (877) FTC-HELP (382-4357), or visit [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) and click on complaint form.

### Tips for responsible phone use while driving

Are you in control of your car? Research indicates that in more than 50 percent of all crashes, driver inattention was a contributing factor. When it comes to using a wireless phone while driving, remember that safety is your most important call. Arrive safely. Consider your options for wireless phone use while driving:

- Evaluate the demands of weather and traffic conditions before making or taking a call.
- Tell the caller that you are driving and may need to suspend the conversation.
- Allow voice mail to handle your calls and return them at your convenience.

- Ask a passenger to make or take the call.
- Position your phone within easy reach.
- Memorize your keypad.
- Use a hands-free device if available.
- Use memory dial and automatic redial features.
- Dial phone numbers when you are not moving.
- Suspend conversation during hazardous driving conditions.
- Do not engage in stressful or emotional conversations while driving.
- Never take notes or look up numbers while driving.
- Do not use data functions such as text messaging or web browsing while driving.

## Investors: Determine your portfolio return

By Dr. Karen Enste

According to the Securities Industry Association (SIA), a trade group for brokerage firms, nearly half (48.2 percent) of all U.S. households own individual stocks or growth mutual funds. This percentage is up sharply from just 28 percent of households with equity assets at the beginning of the 1990s. Thus, thousands of "newbie" investors have put money they might have previously invested in bonds or certificates of deposit (CDs) into often volatile and unpredictable stocks or stock funds.

This trend in investing behavior is not surprising since 1999 was another record-breaking year for major stock indices. Today, households have three-quarters of their liquid financial assets invested in securities products. Whether it's in a company 401(k) plan or a taxable mutual fund "on the side," more and more people are starting to invest, either because they want to or because they are forced to make retirement plan decisions on their own.

Do investors know what they're doing and how their investments are faring?

Maybe not. According to an article, "Did You Beat the Market," in the January 2000 issue of *Money* magazine many investors (as many as 80 percent of those studied) don't know how their investments have performed relative to "benchmark" indicators such as the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index.

The remainder of the article describes a "ballpark" formula



to calculate the performance of your individual investment portfolio. Using this result, you can then determine whether or not you actually "beat the market."

All you need to know is your portfolio balance at the beginning and end of a particular year (e.g., 1999) and the amount invested throughout that year.

In the illustration below, let's assume

that an investor started the year out on January 1 with a \$15,000 balance in three investment accounts (e.g., a stock index mutual fund, a 401(k) invested primarily in equities, and a bank CD).

By December 31 of that same year, the balance had grown to \$20,000. In addition, the investor added \$100 a month to both the 401(k) and the mutual fund (\$200 total) for a total investment deposit of \$2,400 (12 months x \$200).

To calculate your portfolio return take the beginning balance (\$15,000), add it to half of the total annual deposits (\$1200) to total \$16,200. Take the ending balance (\$20,000) and subtract half of the total annual deposits, to total \$18,800.

Finally, divide the adjusted ending balance (\$18,800) by the adjusted beginning balance (\$16,200, which equals 1.16). Subtract 1 and multiply by 100 to get 16, which is the investor's return on the entire portfolio.

### —Planning for your financial future—

## Early retirement: Think twice

By Philip Matrass  
Social Security Manager in Newark

If you are married, have been the primary wage earner in your family and are thinking about filing for early retirement, there are some things you should consider.

Most people know they can collect reduced Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, most people don't know that collecting Social Security before their full retirement age can reduce the benefit amounts paid to them.

Consider the following case — Tom was born in 1938 and has just turned 62. His wife, Shirley, has worked, but Tom has been the primary wage earner in the family. Tom is thinking about when he should start collecting Social Security.

Social Security will compute a "basic benefit" for Tom. His basic benefit depends on how much he has earned over his lifetime. If Tom waits until his full retirement age to collect Social Security, he will receive 100 percent of his basic benefit every month for the rest of his life. For someone born in 1938, such as Tom, the full retirement age is 65 years and 2 months.

If Tom collects Social Security before this age, his monthly benefit will be reduced. For example, if he collects Social Security starting at age 62, his monthly benefit amount will be about 79 percent of his basic benefit.

Tom's choice of when to start receiving Social Security not only affects how much he gets each month, but also affects how much Shirley will get from Social Security if Tom dies before she does.

When Tom dies, Social Security will pay Shirley a widow's benefit.

If Tom waits until his full retirement age to collect Social Security, Shirley's benefit will be 100 percent of Tom's basic benefit. If, however, Tom received early retirement benefits, her widow's benefit will be lower. In general, the longer Tom waits to collect Social Security, the higher Shirley's widow's benefit will be.

According to Social Security, there are currently three million widows and widowers who have less income because they were married to people who filed for early retirement benefits.

A representative at your local Social Security office can talk with you and your spouse about your specific situation. When you are fully informed, you can make the decision that is right for both you and your family.

## Consumer prices fall to lowest in 14 years in August

By Jeannine Aversa  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices fell in August for the first time in 14 years, as the biggest drop in gasoline prices since 1991 overwhelmed higher costs for clothes and prescription drugs.

The good inflation news, in a recent report, bolstered economists' belief that the Federal Reserve won't need to boost interest rates any more this year to ward off inflation and prevent the economy from overheating.

The Labor Department Consumer Price Index, the most closely watched inflation gauge, declined by a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent last month, a better showing than the modest increase many analysts were expecting.

The bottom line: this is a very positive report for consumers. Inflation is tame, and households should continue to enjoy weak or falling prices for many products from PCs to vehicles," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com, an economic consulting firm.

August's performance marked the first monthly CPI decline since a 0.4 percent drop in April 1986, the government said. That was caused by a collapse in global oil prices to \$13 a barrel in April 1986 from around \$31 a barrel just five months earlier, economists said.

## Environmental law is for the average citizen

By Frederick M. Baron

Many people believe that they have little say in large-scale societal issues such as the health of our environment. The job of protecting our natural resources is done solely by the government, most think.

But government regulators aren't the only ones charged with protecting our air, our lands, and our wildlife. Our civil justice system protects the environment, too.

You may have heard recently of stories involving lawsuits to preserve the environment, like the one brought by the clients of Jan Schlichtman against W.R. Grace Co. and Beatrice Foods that was depicted in the film and movie "A Civil Action."

In that case, citizens of the town of Woburn, Massachusetts filed suit when they began to suspect that their drinking water was being contaminated by runoff from a nearby factory.

While the victims initially were denied full justice from W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods, in 1986 Schlichtman was able to secure an \$8 million settlement from Grace, which was shared by the eight families who said the plant injured them.

Subsequently, working with the EPA, Schlichtman and his clients helped persuade Grace, Beatrice, a workers' union company and a trucking company to spend \$70 million over

the next 50 years to clean up and restore the site in Woburn.

But there are thousands of other risk-taking advocates just like Schlichtman and his clients all across America who are pushing polluters and regulators to keep our environment clean.

In fact, much of the progress made in protecting the environment

comes since the first Earth Day has been made by those who have actively pursued environmental protection in the courts.

Why do concerned citizens have such influence over environmental enforcement? One reason is that the government has set it up that way.

A combination of court decisions and language in federal environmental legislation has allowed citizens to activate to help enforce regulations by taking scoff law polluters to court when necessary.

That right has been under fire from some corporations. But the right was shown up early this year when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in the case of Friends of the Earth v. Laidlaw

Environmental Services.

In that case, the Laidlaw company had been found in violation of its federal wastewater discharge permits more than 1,800 times. The hazardous-waste incinerator it operated in South Carolina from 1987 to 1995 had released mercury and other substances to poison human and wildlife — inflicting damage to the quality of the North Tyger River near Spartanburg.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., had earlier ruled that since the company had stopped polluting the river — following a lawsuit filed by citizen watchdogs — it would not have to pay a \$405,800 fine nor Friends of the Earth's legal costs.

But in a 7-2 majority decision written by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Court overruled the 4th Circuit's decision and granted legal standing to Friends of the Earth in representing average citizens, thereby eliminating key stumbling blocks used against citizens in environmental enforcement lawsuits.

"This decision protects citizens' legal right to enforce the Clean Water Act and other pollution-control laws," said Dr. Brent Blackwelder, president of Friends of the Earth, in a press release about the case. "It confirms the civil justice system's role in keeping our families safe."



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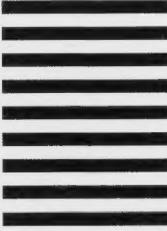
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